THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of deploying a web-based application on a network comprising the steps of:

    (a) generating a data structure representing a flow and associated forms for the application;

    (b) associating with the application a plurality of style documents, ones of said documents being tailored to characteristics of different clients;

    (c) providing to said server a processor for processing said application;

    (d) in response to a request for a form from a client to the server, the processor accessing a set of data sources for the requested form defined in the application and aggregating the data into a single generated data document, the processor executing a style processor for processing the generated data document and a selected style document corresponding to the client characteristics to generate the requested form; and

    (e) forwarding the form processed at the server to the client.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, said generated data document being an XML document.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, said style sheet is an XSL style sheet and said style processor is an XSL processor.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, said form being a displayable form.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, said client characteristics including a character display size of said client.

6. A method as defined in claim 1, said client including a web server.

7. A system for deploying a web-based application on a network comprising:

    (a) at a server, a processor for processing said application, said application comprising a data structure representing a sequence of forms and an associated flow for the application;

    (b) a plurality of style documents associated with the application and ones of said documents being tailored to ones of a plurality of client characteristics;

    (c) at said server, a process for processing said application in response to a request for displayable form from a client to the server, the processor accessing a set of data sources for the requested form defined in the application and aggregating the data into a single generated data document;

    (d) a style processor for processing the generated data document and a selected style sheet corresponding to the client characteristics to generate the requested form for the client; and

    (e) a transmission processor for forwarding the form processed at the server to the client.

8. A system as defined in claim 7, said generated data document being an XML document.

9. A system as defined in claim 7, said style sheet being an XSL style sheet and said style processor is an XSL processor.

10. A system as defined in claim 7, said style documents being contained within said application.

11. A system as defined in claim 7, said application including a pointer to said style documents.

12. A system as defined in claim 7, said application including:

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(a) root element for describing the structure and flow of a single application;

(b) a form element describing a logical screen that is presented to a user on one of a plurality of clients;

5   (c) a style sheet element defining a collection of style sheets for ones of said forms for rendering said form to a selected mark up; and

(d) a connection element for defining a set of components to receive the data from a plurality of data sources.